

Eagle Island State Park Site Planning Committee Meeting Notes, July 25

The Eagle Island State Park Site Planning Committee met July 25 from 8 am to 2 pm at Eagle City Hall. In attendance were Eagle Mayor Nancy Merrill, Idaho Park and Recreation Board member Ernie Lombard, South Region Parks Manager Rick Brown, IDPR Development Planner Jim Thomas, Idaho Fish and Game Bureau Chief Tom Rogers, Eagle Island State Park Manager Gary Shelley, Joint School District Number Two Superintendent Dr. Linda Clark, REI Manager Tom Chelstrom, Zamzows, Inc. President Jim Zamzow, Ada County Commissioner Judy Peavey-Derr, Boise Parks and Recreation Department Director Jim Hall, Meridian Mayor Tammy deWeerd, Sen. Hal Bunderson, IDPR Planner Rick Just, IDPR Administrative Assistant Jan Johns and Beck and Baird staff and associates, Dan Baird, Colie Beck, Jason Pfaff, Jim Mihan and Mike Pepper.

Dan Baird and his associates reviewed goals and objectives the group had developed and made minor changes at the suggestion of committee members. Rick Just gave a brief virtual tour of some parks and park facilities that seem in line with recent committee discussions, then gave the committee some early results of the random sample survey underway regarding Eagle Island development.

The committee broke into two groups for charrette sessions to develop some early concepts for the park. The resulting schematics had much in common, i.e., an extensive trail system, development of water pathways for canoeing, development of a wetlands education center in conjunction with nearby Fish and Game facilities, creation of two small lakes, improved river access for non-motorized boats, habitat improvement, the development of an amphitheater for outdoor events and development of group camping. Elements that also appeared on one or the other of the schematics included a covered facility that would serve as a large group shelter in the summer and an outdoor skating rink in the winter, a wave pool and splash park, and observation tower, and a fishing lake for kids.

Beck and Baird will flesh out the ideas for presentation to the committee on Monday, July 31. Committee members will then bring elements from the two charettes together into an overall vision for the park. Once Beck and Baird have been given that direction by the committee, they will work on a more detailed presentation for the August 15 committee meeting. The committee will discuss the detailed presentation and modify the draft plan as necessary. Beck and Baird will fold those additional comments into a final plan for committee review on September 11. If the committee approves that plan, it will be delivered to Governor Risch and the Idaho Park and Recreation Board on or before September 15.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the plan before the Idaho Park and Recreation Board makes its decision, probably in late October.